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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

SUBJECT Weekly Summary

DATE DISTR.

17 FEB 1958

25X1

1. Summit Conference

2. Machine Tractor Stations USSR

NO. PAGES

1

3. Discontinuance of Office for Customs & Control of Traffic with goods.

4. Training of physicians - USSR

REFERENCES

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5. Construction of aircraft - USSR

25X1

6. Production of Synthetic Rubber - USSR

DATE OF INFO.

PLACE & DATE ACQ.

7. Military training, i.e. air in East Germany

8. Completion of Stendal air field - East Germany.

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SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

25X1

51

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A. Political-Economic**1. Summit Conference**

It appears that Moscow increasingly counts on realization of summit conference. Accord to available info, plan for conference of neutral countries therefore postponed. Hope for summit conference presumably also accounts for delay of Moscow visit [redacted]; reason given by Moscow, that date of visit should not interfere with elections for Supreme Soviet, not to be taken seriously.

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Bulganin's first letter and the numerous following Soviet letters and addresses clearly reflect tendency continuously to extend topics to be treated at summit conference. This tendency can be explained by the wish to support opposition in Western countries which depends on public opinion, to attract neutralist countries and, at the same time, antagonize Western intentions to specify prior to summit conference topics to be treated.

2. Change of MTS System in USSR

Khrushchev announced in a speech that the MTS system in the USSR will be reorganized and machinery will be put under direct supervision of the kolkhozes. This measure represents a major organizational change which may have been caused by the following considerations: at present, there are appr 9,000 MTSs and appr 84,000 kolkhozes in the USSR. As Khrushchev himself admitted, the 1957 harvest was considerably smaller than that of 1956, with an estimated 20 million tons of grain less than in preceding year. According to the kolkhozes managements, this loss was caused by the drought as well as poor MTS service (machine tractor stations). It appears that agricultural specialists have now had their way. Khrushchev may also look at this measure as an intermediate step toward realization of his favorite idea, the conversion of kolkhozes into sovkhoses. Almost exclusively sovkhoses have been established in the newly developed agricultural areas from the beginning. Sovkhoses are nationalized estates which have their own machiner. In any case, this reorganization can be accomplished only in a lengthy process.

3. Withdrawal of Control Personnel from Berlin Sector Boundary

On orders of Presidium of Council of Ministers on 17 January 1958, special employment of AZKW personnel (Office for Customs and Control of Traffic with Goods) allegedly was to be discontinued.

(Comment: Although this measure may be interpreted as a lessening of tensions in the Berlin situation, Pankov is still able any time to intensify control measures as may also be implied from recent indications of continuous improvement of isolation plan.

4. Training of Physicists in the USSR

Since recently, students of physics are being trained in all fields of physics i.e. at all physical institutes. Specialization already as a student has been discontinued [redacted]

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- 2 -

(Comment: So far, training of engineers and students of natural science had been very much restricted to special fields, a method which had enabled personnel involved to take over at short notice subjects developed at other places. The present extensive training of physicists tends to indicate that the USSR is about to attach increasing importance to fundamental research which is a prerequisite for a qualitative superiority in the field of armament.)

5. Series Construction of Il-18s in the USSR

According to Soviet statements of early January 1958, large transport aircraft Il-18 "Moskva" is already in series production, apparently in Plant No 30 at the former Central Airport in Moscow. First Il-18s of these series may be put into operation prior to the end of the year. When series production will be well under way, i.e. not earlier than after 1 year, the capacity of the plant will allow a maximum monthly production of 6 to 8 aircraft of this size.

6. Demonstration of MiG-15s in 1947

A report by a Soviet scientist of 1948, which has been published only now, indicates that the first sample of a MiG-15 shown at the 1947 parade in Tushino still had many deficiencies, the removal of which had been postponed until after the parade. It can therefore safely be assumed that new military equipment shown by the USSR at parades etc might not always be fully tested and ready for employment.

7. Production of Synthetic Rubber in the USSR

In 1957, two new plants, Baku and Krasnojarsk, were put into operation in the USSR. Production is based on ethyl alcohol gained from crack gas and/or wood spirit. The construction of additional plants for production of rubber on base of synthetic alcohol from crackgas is planned. Several new sorts of artificial rubber with specific properties have been produced in the USSR for 2 years. Additional sorts are in the phase of scientific-technical development

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(Comment: In spite of an increase of the production of 220,000 tons in 1957, the USSR, between 1951 and 1956, had to import an annual average of 63,000 tons of Indian rubber and a considerable percentage of the Soviet-Zone production of synthetic rubber. The problem of production of alcohol by the cracking process has been solved. In connection with the increasing utilization of wood spirit, the raw material situation for the production of synthetic rubber improved considerably, so that a major increase of production can be expected. So far, the new rubber sorts represent only a beginning of a reduced wear and tear which, however, in connection with the increase of production, will make the USSR self-supporting with regard to rubber.)

See also supplements.

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B. Armed Forces

I. USSR and "United" Forces (Warsaw Pact)

Higher Echelon Organization and Personnel

On 14 Jan, Gen Arty M.P. Dmitriyev mentioned as Chief Adm Combat Tng Arty of Adm Arty Commander Soviet Army.

(Comment: M.P. Dmitriyev reported in following positions: Jun 1940, Brig Gen of Arty; Sep 1941, Arty Commander Central Front; Nov 1942, Maj Gen and Arty Commander of Southwest Front; Jan - Oct 1943, Arty Gen and Arty Commander of Southwest Front; Aug 1957, Deputy Umpire at arty competition of Soviet Army (press).)

On 21 Jan, Maj Gen Ivan Vasilyevich Tutarinov mentioned as Chief-of-Staff of Soviet Forces in Hungary.

(Comment: I.V. Tutarinov reported in following positions: Aug 1942 and Aug 1943, Brig Gen and Commander 9th Gds Cav Div; Mar 1944, awarded Bogdan Khmelnitzki Order Second Class; Jul 1944, distinguished himself SW Minsk, near Baranovich and Brest Litovsk, accord to radio report; Sep 1946, presum Commander 9th Cav Div in North-Caucasus MD; Sep 1947, commanded cavalry parade at cavalry contests in Moscow (press).)

II. GDR

1. Higher Echelon Personnel

It was learned in early Jan, that Maj Gen Hoffmann, who reportedly returned from the USSR "some time ago", replaced Brig Gen Dickel []

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(Comment: During Maj Gen Hoffmann's prolonged absence, Brig Gen Dickel had acted as First Deputy Minister for National Defense. Accord to recent info, Maj Gen Mueller has fallen into disgrace and, for the time being, Brig Gen Dickel is scheduled to succeed him as Chief of Main Staff of Ministry for National Defense. [] It may therefore be assumed that Maj Gen Hoffmann's detachment to Moscow had been discontinued ahead of time or had been interrupted. []

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2. Reserves

Accord to a government decision announced at GDR universities, in early Nov 1957, military tng was to become compulsory at universities in Jan 1958. Students were to be sworn in and had to participate in 4 to 3-week exercises with troop units at the end of every study year. Graduate students are expected to have the ability to act as reserve officers. 1957 graduates have to participate in only one 8-week course with NVA units in 1958, upon completion of which they may become reserve NCOs []

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- 2 -

The schedule provides for 8 hours theoretical and practical infantry tng per week for male students and tng in radio, medical and air protection service by NVA every second week for female students, in addition to special tng by GST

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(Comment: Should this decision be executed to its full extent, military service would practically become compulsory for students at universities. USSR undoubtedly again served as model for this measure.)

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C. Army

USSR (GDR)

1. Location

15 Jan, 5 BM-14 RLs left Ebersdorfer Kaserne (1244), Chemnitz; returned same day.

(Comment: The 53d Gds RL Bn/11th Gds Tank Div possibly now stationed in Ebersdorfer Kaserne, Chemnitz.)

2. Training

In addition to intensive tng at posts, tng in firing of arty units at tng grounds and activities of engr units at water tng sites increased betw 10 and 20 Jan.

On 20 Jan, elms 34th Arty Div, Potsdam, transferred, presum to Altengrabow, and, on 15 Jan, arty elms 9th Gds Tank Div, Neustrelitz, transferred to tng grounds for firing practices.

On 21 Jan, elms engr bn/10th Gds Tank Div practiced at northern shore of Lake Krampnitz and, on 22 Jan, elms engr bn/6th Gds Mecz Div practiced at Oranienburg Canal.

Movements of columns on 16 Jan in the Riesa-Grossenhain-Koenigsbrueck area, which incl sedans, APCs, radio and other trucks but no tanks and heavy weapons, tend to indicate staff exercise in area of First Gds Mecz Army (Tank)

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(Comment: Increased firing practices of arty units and water tng of engr units had been expected. No info has as yet been received on a "staff exercise" in area of First Gds Mecz Army (Tank).)

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D. Air Force

I. USSR

1. Training

Since 27 Jan 1958, a winter exercise in the southern area of the Sov Zone Germany has been under way involving elements of the Twenty-Fourth Air Army and probably army elements of the GSFG.

(Comment: This exercise is unusual in this season. Detailed info on practice area and units involved will be forwarded later on.)

2. Logistics

It is expected that Stendal airfield is ready for occupation and operation by Sov Air Force units beginning Feb 1958.

(Comment: The runway and taxiway system at Stendal airfield was completed in Nov 1957. After completed repair of cracks in concrete slabs in Jan 1958, the airfield is ready for occupation by air units.)

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E. NavyI. GDR1958 Shipbuilding Program

The following information was obtained on the construction program of some GDR shipyards:

1. Rosslau Shipyard

- a. 1 motor cargo vessel: type GUSTAV KOENIGS; 750 d/w tons; 3 hatches; length 67 meters; width 8 to 9.5 meters; draft 2 to 2.5 meters. Probably to be delivered [redacted] 25X1
- b. 11 inland tankers: similar to type GUSTAV KOENIGS. presumably also [redacted] delivery: [redacted] 25X1
- c. 4 sea-going bucket dredgers: output 400 cubic meters per hour; length 60 meters; width 12 meters; diesel-electric propulsion with 2 x 300-HP diesel engine; latest nautical installations; 2 vessels for USSR, and 2 for GDR; delivery [redacted] 25X1

2. Elbe Shipyard in Boizenburg

- a. 5 tankers: probably 500 d/w tons; length 50 meters; width 8 to 9 meters; draft 2.5 meters; 1 diesel engine with 300 to 360 HP; for USSR (Koenigsberg); delivery: [redacted] 25X1
- b. 15 fishing cutters: length 26 meters; width 3.5 meters; draft 2 meters; similar to those built at Stralsund National Shipyard; for GDR completion [redacted] 25X1
- c. Motor coasters: probably 390 GRT; length 50 meters; width 6.5 meters; for export; terms and time of delivery unknown.
- d. Cargo boats: for export; no further details.

3. Thaelmann Shipyard in Brandenburg

- a. 7 river ice-breakers: also to be used as harbor tugs; length appr 30 meters; width 6.5 meters; draft 1.75 meters; 1 x 540-HP BW diesel engine; 1.2 million DME per ship; for GDR or Poland; almost completed by [redacted] 25X1

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NOFORN**

- 2 -

- b. 20 seiners: length 24 to 30 meters; width 3.5 to 4 meters; draft 2.2 to 2.6 meters; 1 x 300-HP diesel engine; 1 screw; speed 12.7 knots; modern W/T installation; trawl winch for fishing at stern; for USSR (Ministry for Fishery, Keanigsberg): to be delivered [redacted] 25X1
t [redacted]
- c. Repair ships: to be equipped with forge, foundry turning section, drilling shop, welding whop, and diesel compressor. Total of 65 ships to be constructed for USSR by 1960; rate of production unknown [redacted] 25X1

II. Poland

Polish Mine Sweeper of T-43 Class

[redacted] a vessel with designation T-63, presumably of T-43 Class, was observed in Basin IX of Gdynia Harbor. The flag could not be identified [redacted] 25X1
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(Comment: Vessel observed presum was third Polish mine sweeper of T-43 Class built at Paris Kommune Shipyard in Gdynia.)

III. USSR

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Escort Destroyer [redacted] of RIGA Class

[redacted] RIGA [redacted] which had not been reported since [redacted] was again observed in Swinemunde Harbor. Destroyer presumably returned to its previous harbor after overhauling at a shipyard. According to available information, RIGA was observed with lop-side of about 15 degrees in the Baltic [redacted] 25X1
Two tugs from Swinemunde had rendered towage service to the ship which had apparently been damaged.

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